

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144829

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:NC:TWSONANDRES

APPROVED BY ARA - MR. ROGERS

ARA:CEN - MR. BOVA (DRAFT)

ARA:NC - MR. DEVINE

NSC - MR. LOW (PHONE)

S/S - RKUCHEL

ARA:PAN - MR. WYROUGH (DRAFT)

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O 192332Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: VE, CO, CS, PN, PFOR, PBOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SIGNED ORIGINAL LETTERS, DATED JUNE 17, FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE PRESIDENTS OF COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA, AND VENEZUELA WHICH BEING POUCHED TO ACTION ADDRESSEES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. LETTERS ARE IN RESPONSE TO LETTERS OF MARCH 24 TO THE PRESIDENT FROM THE THREE COUNTRIES ON THE PANAMA CANAL, COPIES OF WHICH ALSO BEING POUCHED.

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2. FOR POSTS' INFORMATION ONLY, TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S

JUNE 17 LETTERS READS BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:
I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU (HERE ARE NOTED IN EACH LETTER THE
NAMES OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO OTHER COUNTRIES IN
QUESTION) FOR YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 24, CONTAINING YOUR
VIEWS ON THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION. I HAVE CAREFULLY CON-
SIDERED THE POINTS YOU RAISE IN THE SAME CONSTRUCTIVE
SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY WERE OFFERED, AND I ASSURE YOU I WILL
KEEP THEM IN MIND AS THE DISCUSSIONS WITH PANAMA PROGRESS.

IN PARTICULAR, I APPRECIATE THE EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP
CONTAINED IN YOUR LETTER, AND I ASSURE YOU OF MY OWN DEEP
COMMITMENT TO THE SHARED ASPIRATIONS WHICH HAVE
CHARACTERIZED OUR RELATIONS OVER SO LONG A PERIOD.

SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW TREATY WITH PANAMA ON
THE CANAL ARE NOW UNDERWAY, I WILL REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING
ON THEM IN ANY DETAIL. HOWEVER, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MY
ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO A SINCERE EFFORT TO
MODERNIZE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH PANAMA WITH RESPECT TO
THE CANAL. THE UNITED STATES HAS A CONTINUING ECONOMIC
AND STRATEGIC INTEREST IN THE WATERWAY. BY THE SAME
TOKEN, WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CANAL TO PANAMA.
ENCOURAGING PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
ON MY PART, I INTEND TO CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS TO
ACCOMMODATE THE IMPORTANT INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AS
WELL AS THOSE OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WHICH DEPEND ON
THE CANAL. I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT SATISFACTORY RESULTS CAN
BE ACHIEVED. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD.
END QUOTE.

3. THE THREE REPLIES ARE IN RESPONSE TO CONFIDENTIAL
LETTERS AND WHITE HOUSE VIEWS THIS EXCHANGE TO BE
PRIVILEGED CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CHIEFS OF STATE AND NOT
FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
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To: CARACAS SAN JOSE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006